



GMS Spelling Bee, p.7



Festival of Lights Photos, p.12

## Tree Lighting a Merry Moment To Welcome Holiday Season

by Kaitlyn Cupelli

Greenbelt's annual Christmas tree lighting saw a great turnout on Friday, December 6. With cups of hot chocolate in hand, Greenbelt residents filled Roosevelt Center waiting for Santa to arrive and light up the community tree.

Mayor Colin Byrd and Councilmembers Emmett Jordan, Judith Davis and Edward Putens were all welcomed with a loud round of applause. It was Byrd's first time attending the event as mayor.

"It's all just a joyful time. I'm glad to be a part of it and to now take a leadership role in helping to promote some of these festivities," Byrd said.

While the crowd eagerly awaited Santa's arrival, the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir performed It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel.

Santa arrived in his fire truck not too long after that. He and Mrs. Claus were met with thunderous applause from the crowd, especially from all of the kids in attendance.

"I can smell Santa!" said Chris Cherry, performing arts coordinator for the City of Greenbelt. "What does he smell like? Peppermint! And cookies, because he eats so many!"

The band put on a performance of Here Comes Santa Claus as Santa made his way to the stage, followed by his group of elves.



PHOTO BY GARY CHILDS

Colin Byrd leads the festivities at the December 6 tree lighting in his first holiday season as mayor of Greenbelt.

"Everybody ready for some cold weather?" Santa asked the audience. "Let's hear it for snow!"

The Christmas spirit was then felt more than ever as everyone joined Santa in singing classic Christmas carols such as Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells.

"I really do love the band," said Jordan. "They're so good and I love singing carols."

After the caroling had concluded and Santa had arrived, it

was time for the main event: the lighting of the Christmas tree. The crowd counted down from 10 to help Santa before the tree was lit by beautiful multi-colored lights. The tree lighting helped to bring Greenbelt residents together and unite them all in the Christmas spirit.

"When you look around, you see such a happy vibe here," said Vijay Parameshwaran, a

See TREE, page 12

## Violent Crime Continues To Decline in Franklin Park

by Cathie Meetre

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

In a city council worksession on December 4 at the Franklin Park Leasing Center, Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers noted that there has been a lower crime rate in the complex and his department believes that the continuing close collaboration between the police and Franklin Park is a key factor.

Overall, the totals are the classes of crime reported to the FBI for 2019 is down 13 percent. Eight crimes are reported to the FBI: murder and non-negligent homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft and

arson. Comprehensive 2019 city annual statistics will be released early in 2020 and then summarized in this newspaper.

This year, Franklin Park had no homicides and a 50 percent decrease in robberies after a spike in this class of crime the year before. (The homicide on Ivy Lane is included in the Franklin Park sector for reporting purposes but was unrelated to the complex.)

It was noted that burglaries have traditionally been a large factor in the crime statistics but they are down 40 percent in the last year. Credit goes to the community's management staff who are doing a great job of screening applicants, and to the alertness of

See CRIME, page 8



PHOTO BY GARY CHILDS

Enjoying conversation over breakfast at the annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast are, from left, City Manager Nicole Ard, the Lions' Lion, Russel Dick and District 22 Delegate Nicole Williams.

## GAC Celebrates 40 Years at Festive After-Production Party

by Matthew Arbach and Konrad Herling

On December 8 the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) celebrated its 40th anniversary with an informal gathering after a performance of The Phantom Tollbooth, attended by an audience of all ages.

According to co-founder Konrad Herling, GAC was conceived as a cultural center that would promote a variety of the arts.

The idea was born from the 1979 city council election. Herling, then a resident of the Springhill Lake Apartments (now Franklin Park), was encouraged to run for council to represent another part of the city.

Herling recalled his father saying that behind the screen at the movie theater was a stage that had been used by the Greenbelt Players early in the city's history. Having been an avid supporter of the arts, Herling saw an opportunity to create a venue for cultural events that would "bring people together from the entire community working together on a common endeavor." Additionally, utilizing a building that had been vacant for three years would help revitalize the town center. This became a platform on his


See GAC, page 7




PHOTO BY AMANDA LARSEN

Sharon, Mitzi and Jackie Foster sell mixed media art, jewelry and tote bags at the annual Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair which took place in the Community Center on December 7 and 8. See more photos, page 12.





## Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings



With a December issue of the newspaper, the Greenbelt News Review distributes an envelope that requests tips for carriers. Place a tip in the envelope, stamp it and mail it to the carrier’s address on the front of the envelope. If you write a check, make it out to the carrier – not the newspaper. All tips go directly to the carriers.

Though they are paid a nominal sum each week, this extra token of appreciation means a lot. Their tips and pay teach the younger ones about how to work, maintain a good attitude and manage money. Carrier families with multiple routes find the income a real boost. It is notable that many of Greenbelt’s carriers become highly productive adults, taking this positive first work-world experience with them into success in later years. If your carrier is especially meticulous and reliable, delivers promptly and dependably and protects the newspaper from wind and rain, let them know how much they are appreciated.

In the past three years, the News Review has improved its delivery service. Credit for this is due to Karen Yoho, whose guidance keeps the operation on track. Delivery staff Alan Burt and Amina Khalifa and her grandson Alexander are key links who supply carriers and fill boxes and racks.

The holiday season affords all of us a chance to show appreciation and to provide encouragement for the efforts of these young people and at the same time to show understanding for any minor problems with delivery that may have happened during the year. The News Review thanks everybody involved for doing a great job, caring about the community and braving heat, cold and wet conditions to bring residents their papers.

## Letters to the Editor

### We Are Listening

This is a response to the letter in last week’s issue; to the many discussions online; and to the concerned conversations we have all had with neighbors and friends about the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store.

As the Co-op’s directors, we are listening. Like you, we are community members who care about the future of our grocery store. We want to see it succeed.

As those of you who attended our annual membership meeting last month will know, the store’s sales are down and its expenses are up. What worked for many successful years is no longer enough to keep the store profit-

able. We are therefore making changes. We’re adding curbside pickup service. We’re talking to some great new vendors. We’re considering changes to freshen the store’s layout. We’re examining all expenses in search of potential savings. Thanks to the generosity of this community, we’re adding solar panels to the roof, which will greatly decrease our energy costs.

In the coming months, the board and staff will be welcoming a new store manager, and be working through the inevitable bumps and surprises that come with a transition of that

See **LETTERS**, page 11

## Send Your Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish Holiday Greetings in the December 19 issue of this paper.

The ad desk is open on Mondays 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m.

Deadline 4 p.m. Monday, December 16

### On Screen

## A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (Auditorium)

After a jaded magazine writer (Emmy winner Matthew Rhys) is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers (Tom Hanks), he overcomes his skepticism, learning about empathy, kindness and decency from America’s most beloved neighbor. Based on the real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. “This is a movie that’s both entertainment and spiritual toolkit – take from it what you need,” says Stephanie Zacharek of TIME Magazine.

Rated PG. Running time: 109 minutes

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## The Two Popes (Pop-up)

Frustrated with the direction of the church, Cardinal Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce) requests permission to retire in 2012 from Pope Benedict (Anthony Hopkins). Instead, facing scandal and self-doubt, the introspective Pope Benedict summons his harshest critic and future successor to Rome to reveal a secret that would shake the foundations of the Catholic Church. Behind Vatican walls, a struggle commences between both tradition and progress, guilt and forgiveness, as these two very different men confront their pasts in order to find common ground and forge a future for a billion followers around the world.

Rated PG-13. Running time: 126 minutes

- Sandy Rodgers

### Corrections

In the December 5 News Review article about the Bureau of Engraving and Printing considering a move to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the quote: ‘They don’t want comments, negative comments, obviously,’ was given by Jane Young and not by Marcia Van Horn as the article stated.

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In the December 5 issue, the article misstated the religious affiliation percentages that were the intent of Greenbelt’s planners. Those percentages should have been 63 percent Protestant, 30 percent Catholic and 7 percent Jewish.



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**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

### SHOWTIMES

December 13th - 19th

#### The Auditorium

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (PG) (CC)(DVS)(2019)(109 mins)  
Fri. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Sat. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Sun. 2:30(OC), 5:30 PM  
Mon. 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Tues. 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Wed. 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 PM  
Thurs. 5:30, 8:30 PM

#### IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE

(PG)(1946)(135 mins)  
Sponsored by Greenbelt Federal Credit Union  
Sat. 11:00 AM - FREE!

#### Stage on Screen

REMBRANDT (NR)(2019) (95 mins)  
Sun. 8:00 PM  
Mon. 1:00 PM

#### The Pop-Up

THE TWO POPES (PG-13) (CC)(DVS)(2019)(126 mins)  
Fri. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Mon. 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Tues. 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Wed. 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 5:00, 8:00 PM



PETE REPERT

HOW THE NEWS REVIEW GETS DELIVERED OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

### Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.




### Holiday Hours and Deadlines

Please note changes in office hours and deadlines that will be in effect for the two issues published in the upcoming holiday weeks.


#### December 26 issue

Office hours:  
Friday, December 20 2-4pm  
Sunday, December 22 2-4pm and 6-8pm  
**DEADLINE:** Sunday, December 22 8pm



#### January 2 issue

Office hours:  
Friday, December 27 2-4pm  
Sunday, December 29 2-4pm and 6-8pm  
**DEADLINE:** Sunday, December 29 8pm



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Circulation and Distribution information also available at:  
[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/)

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



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# Obituaries

## Noreen McKinney



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Noreen McKinney

On Thursday, December 5, 2019, Noreen (Snunny) Schultz McKinney died of colon cancer at her home in Greenbelt. Snunny was married to her husband Haven McKinney for 47 years. The couple had seven children.

Snunny was born on October 4, 1936, in New York's Bronx borough to the late Jack C. Schultz and Noreen (O'Halloran) Schultz, who moved to Greenbelt in 1942. "Snunny" is the nickname her father gave her at birth. Later, he told her it meant "darling" in German, but the family came to find out that was not the case. Nonetheless, the name had taken hold and came to impart his intended meaning.

Snunny spent the majority of her life as a resident of Greenbelt, a source of pride for her due to the town's strong sense of community, focus on children and the elderly and its folksy, old-time neighborliness. She always had the best neighbors on Westway's 2 Court and, in particular, her current neighbors were especially dear friends.

As all who knew her can attest, Snunny was a lively, spirited and highly animated person. Some might say there was an excitability to her nature, which was true, but she also balanced her sense of anticipation with her

sustained sense of contentment. Known for her expressive and unmatched storytelling – regularly interrupted by her own peals of laughter – she never failed to light up the room and spark excitement.

The key to her steady and hearty enthusiasm may well have been her love and appreciation for the little things in life. Snunny took great pleasure in simple activities like driving around to see the Christmas lights, watching the colorful sunlight play across the interiors of her home, planting, nurturing and admiring her flowers and, of course, beating others at Scrabble and cards.

Professionally, Snunny worked for CNN during its early history in the 1980s and then started her own business with her husband (HLM Productions). There she was an extremely capable videographer and editor, with a special talent for scoring film and video productions with the ideal music.

Family and friends will all miss Snunny's larger-than-life personality and wondrous nature. Her gifts were many, but her unconditional love was the best. To Haven they express their gratitude for his selfless care during her illness and throughout their marriage.

Mrs. McKinney's daughter Kathleen, son Thomas and brothers George J. and Jim J. Schultz predeceased her. She is survived by her husband, children John

Michal (Patti), Ginger, Jacki, Lori and Kim (Lisa); a sister Jacki Nelson of Greenbelt; six grandchildren, five nieces and nephews and a grandniece.

A memorial mass will be held at St. Hugh Catholic Church on Thursday, December 12, at 10 a.m. Refreshments will follow at Grenoble Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those who choose to make a donation make it to the American Cancer Society or a charity of their choice.

## Tula Long



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Tula Long

Tula (Logan) Long died on November 24, 2019. She was born March 12, 1927, to Charles Logan, Sr. and Beanie (Rowe) Logan in Arton, Ala., and grew up on her family's farm along with five siblings. In 1945 she was selected from her high school graduating class to go to

Washington, D.C., to work for the FBI in the fingerprinting department.

Tula met her husband in Washington and they went on to have five children. She was a longtime resident of Greenbelt, from 1952 to 1988, raising their children here. She retired from Montgomery Ward in Capital Plaza in 1983. After retiring, she spent many years doing child care, tending to families in the Greenbelt and Laurel areas, as well as caring for several of her grandchildren. She was affectionately called Mum-Mum and Mema by her grandchildren as well as the children she cared for over many years.

Tula spent her entire life loving and caring for her family, close friends and neighbors. She was an incredible mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and would have soon been a great-great-grandmother. She loved all of her family, reaching out to keep in touch with her brothers, sister, cousins and even friends she had gone to high school with. She never knew a stranger. She touched the lives of many people, who considered her a second Mom.

Mrs. Long is survived by all five children: Gwendolyn Long (Nickolson) of Pueblo, Colo.; Linda Long (Wampler) of Laurel; Charles Long (Dave) of Seaford, Del.; William H. Long (Billy) of Lauder Hill, Fla; and Larry Lo-

gan Long of Alexandria, Va. She is also survived by grandchildren Kenneth D. Nickolson, Kelly S. Nickolson, Charles D. Long Jr., Amanda M. Lowery (Long) and Brandi J. Johnson (Long); step-granddaughter Chrissy Caparella, and by seven great grandchildren.

Mrs. Long is also survived by two brothers, Charles R. Logan (Butch) and sister-in-law Edna Earl Logan of Dothan, Ala., and brother Bill Logan, of New Brockton, Ala.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Elmer Logan and Hayward Logan, sister Mabel Harden, sisters-in-law Jane Logan and Florine Logan, brother-in-law Bill Harden and son-in-law James Wampler.

Cremation has taken place; her family will spread her ashes on the Logan family farm in Alabama late next spring. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, December 20 at 1 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home, 313 Talbott Avenue (Route 198 West), Laurel. Phone: 301-725-1690 or 410-880-4290.





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**"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, 'God with us.'"**

Matthew 1:23



**Sunday Worship Services**  
Greenbelt Elementary School  
10a-11:15a  
MCFcc.org



"Trustworthiness, wisdom and honesty are, of a truth, God's beautiful adornments for His creatures. These fair garments are a befitting vesture for every temple. Happy are those that comprehend, and well is it with them that acquire such virtues." – Bahá'í Writings

**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

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Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.  
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.  
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe**

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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301-474-9410  
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



**Worship Service 10 a.m.**  
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*The Lord is my light and my salvation. Ps.*

**Sunday School 10:30 a.m.**  
**Church Service 10:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday meeting 7:30 p.m.**





Our condolences to the family and many friends of Snunny McKinney, who died this week. A longtime Greenbelter, she made her presence felt through her stories, laughter and enthusiasm. Also, our sympathies to the family and friends of another longtime Greenbelter, Tula Long, who touched the lives of many people in Greenbelt. Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

NOT at the Library

The Greenbelt Library is closed until Tuesday, January 21, 2020 for the installation of new shelving and carpeting. During this closure, the Library hopes customers will visit nearby branches, such as those in New Carrollton and Beltsville, for their various library needs, including the Passport Acceptance Service at New Carrollton. The book drop at the Greenbelt Library is accessible for returning items as regular due dates still apply to all items borrowed by patrons. Items may also be returned to any operating branch in the county.

Ready 2 Read Storytimes at the Community Center, Room 202. Wednesday, December 18, 10:15 a.m., ages 3 to 5, limit 30 people; 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3, limit 30 people. Thursday, December 19, 11:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, limit 15 babies with parent(s) or caregiver(s). Storytime on Screen at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Monday, December 23, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bring a baby, toddler or pre-schooler to listen to a story read from the big screen, see a short film and complete a craft. Popcorn will be provided. No registration required. This walk-in event is presented bi-weekly on the second and fourth Monday mornings of each month. All County Libraries will be closed Tuesdays, December 24 and 31, and Wednesdays, December 25 and January 1, for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. All regularly operating libraries will reopen on Thursdays, December 26 and January 2 in accordance with established branch schedules.



Drop Us a Line!  
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Advertising Rate Change

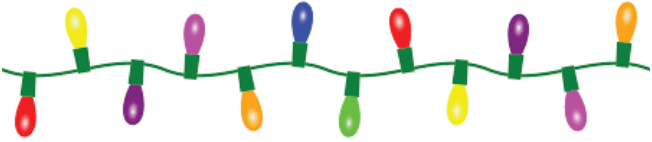
Effective with the January 9, 2020 issue, the Greenbelt News Review will change its ad rates and rate structure. The base rate (Tier A) will be \$10 per column inch, up from the current rate of \$9.80. The rate for qualifying nonprofit organizations will be \$7 per column inch, up from \$6.70. Discounts are available for those placing at least 45 column inches in a 13 week period. We have modified the discount structure significantly. The last rate increase was January 1, 2018. For further information please contact the Greenbelt News Review Advertising Department ([ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com)) or refer to our website ([greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com)).

Mowatt Annual Christmas Concert

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its Annual Christmas Concert Saturday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Renew the holiday spirit with classic Christmas hymns like O Come All Ye Faithful and What Child Is This. Jie Fang Goh and Alexander Kostadinov will display their four-hand talents on the piano. Join a host of singers and delight with the season. Refreshments will follow. Mowatt MUMC is located at 40 Ridge Road in Old Greenbelt.

Senator Pinsky Holds Town Hall Dec. 14

On Saturday, December 14 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Senator Paul Pinsky will hold a town hall featuring Dr. Monica Goldson, the chief executive officer of Prince George’s County Public School System. The meeting will be held at Lamont Elementary School, 7101 Good Luck Road, New Carrollton. Pinsky will share a legislative update and answer questions. Time will be set aside to hear from members of the audience. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 240-391-3154.



Nicole Williams Is Sworn in



PHOTO BY J DAVIS

At the Maryland State House, on Friday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m., Nicole Williams was sworn in as District 22 representative to the Maryland House of Delegates. Shown are Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones, Williams, and her mother. Williams swore her oath on her grandmother's Bible.

Talk on Grief During the Holidays

Need help dealing with the loss of a loved one during the holidays? On Saturday, December 14 from noon to 1 p.m. the Maryland Health Alliance will offer a free lunch and seminar on managing grief during the holiday season and beyond at the New Deal Café. RRSVP to 240-473-2159 or email [info@md-health.org](mailto:info@md-health.org). Lunch will be served. RSVPs are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

Homeless Resources Discussions at Mowatt

The Thursday breakfast group will be held at Memorial United Methodist Church on December 19 at 9:30 a.m. Greenbelt City Manager Nicole Ard will give a presentation on homelessness in Greenbelt and the many resources available through the city and county. The meal is free, potluck and all are welcome. Come to the front doors to Fellowship Hall. For more information, call Ellen Noll at 301-474-9410.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 16-20

Monday, December 16 at 8:00pm **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Jane Realty** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road *Live on Comcast 71 and 996, Verizon 21 and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)*  
**Closed Session immediately following this work session. Please see notice below.**  
Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm **M-NCPPC NCO ZONE COMMUNITY MEETING** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.  
Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30pm **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** at **Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 114** *On the Agenda: Mayor's Report, New Business, Old Business, and Recreation Department Update*  
Wednesday, December 18 at 8:00pm **LEGISLATIVE DINNER** at Crowne Plaza, 6400 Ivy Lane.

***This schedule is subject to change.  
For meeting confirmation please call 301-474-8000.***

OFFICIAL NOTICE-CLOSED SESSION PERSONNEL MATTERS

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, December 16, 2019, immediately following the Jane Realty Apartments Work Session, in the Library of the Municipal Building, to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. The purpose of this meeting will be personnel matters – Administration (Economic Development, Finance, Human Resources, IT, and Museum) Recreation, Public Works, Police, Planning, and CARES. *\*The public may attend the Work Session of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session. Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Administrative Assistant*

RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS

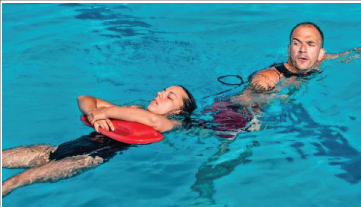
The City of Greenbelt's Fiscal Year 2021 Recognition Group Applications are available online at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). Please read the Recognition Group Information Policy Guide before completing. Completed applications are due by January 24, 2020. For more information please contact Cathy Pracht at [cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov) or 240-542-2196.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee  
**For more info: 301-474-8000**

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Consider donating at this time of year to the Agency Funds, which helps our neighbors in need. Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. Donation areas include the following:  
The Recreation Department: funds used to support camp scholarships and special events.  
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Emergency Assistance Fund: funds assist Greenbelt residents at-risk of eviction.  
Advisory Committee on Education (ACE): funds initiatives such as ACE scholarships.  
The Greenbelt Theater: funds help keep the theater open.  
Checks may be made payable to the City of Greenbelt. Donors may direct their donation toward one or more of the agency funds. Donations are tax deductible and upon request a letter acknowledging your gift will be issued.  
***Thank you to all residents who have contributed in years past. Happy Holidays!***



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## GMS Spelling Bee Winners



PHOTO BY ANGELA BATTEN

The winners of the Second Annual Greenbelt Middle School Spelling Bee, held Thursday, December 5, are, from left, Ishan Joshi (seventh grade), third place; Abraham Conneh (sixth grade), second place; and Hyrum Hudson (sixth grade), first place. Hudson will represent Greenbelt Middle School at the annual Prince George’s County Spelling Bee, sponsored in part by The Washington Informer. It will be held at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center Dekelboun Concert Hall on Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

## County Planning Department Hosts New Zoning Overview

by Chad Williams

On October 23, 2018, the Prince George’s County Council adopted a new Zoning Ordinance and new Subdivision Regulations for Prince George’s County. As part of the ongoing County-wide Map Amendment project, a new Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone (NCOZ) is being prepared for the portion of the City of Greenbelt that is currently classified in the Residential Planned Community (R-P-C) Zone.

This part of Greenbelt includes the historic residential cooperative, the Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt Library, Community Center, the forest preserve, Buddy Attick Lake Park and homes and apartments near the historic core.

The purpose of the NCOZ is to protect and preserve the unique development features and character of established neighborhoods throughout the county and to promote new development that is compatible with the existing neighborhood character. Minimum criteria for the designation of an NCOZ are established in the new Zoning Ordinance; these will be addressed in a Greenbelt neighborhood study that specifies the development context. The Greenbelt NCOZ will also include development standards specific to historic Greenbelt; should the Greenbelt NCOZ be approved, the standards will regulate development, redevelopment and building alterations in the zone.

The Prince George’s County Planning Department will hold an initial community meeting on Tuesday, December 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room in the Community Center. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the NCOZ, review the

schedule and background, provide a brief overview of the work to date involving collaboration with the City of Greenbelt and Greenbelt Homes, Inc., and obtain community comments and ideas of the Greenbelt neighborhood study and potential development standards. All residents, property owners and business owners within the current R-P-C Zone are invited to participate.

Information on the zoning rewrite and the ongoing County-wide Map Amendment project is available at [zoningpgc.pgplanning.com](http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com). Electronic copies of the adopted new Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision regulations are available on the County Council’s project website at [pgccouncil.us/ZOR](http://pgccouncil.us/ZOR). For additional information about the NCOZ project or to ask questions, contact [chad.williams@ppd.mnccpc.org](mailto:chad.williams@ppd.mnccpc.org) or call 301-952-3171.

Chad Williams is master planner, Countywide Planning Division, Prince George’s County Planning Department, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

## GAC continued from page 1

campaign for a council seat. Though Herling did not win a council seat that year, he was heartened that there was keen interest in an arts center and was able to secure the space with the theater owner, George Christacos, for \$500 a month. Enlisting the help of people like Ken Voigt, Steve Hooper, Fred Baluch, Trix Whitehall, Lindley Darden, Rick LaRocca, Daryl Beard, Bill Ayers, Linda Curtis, Joyce Magnum, Shirley Hibbs, Tom and Angela Schreiber and John Ward, the venue was made ready from a technical and organizational standpoint.

The opening on December 8, 1979, included classic films, dance, music, visual arts and even a Gong Show.

The arts center moved after June 30, 1988, when the rent tripled, to other locations such as Mishkan Torah, Capitol College, Springhill Lake Recreation Center and the city council chambers.

In the fall of 1993, the current location, a former realty office, was obtained, through the efforts of Marie Tousignant. The first event there was in December 1993, with a production of The Lion’s Den.

Said Herling, “I hope that one day Greenbelt will have a new performing arts center that will offer an even wider range of arts opportunities for the community.”

GAC President Win Britt expressed pride over what has been accomplished over GAC’s 40 years, and said that this year has been “plenty successful” all around. Yet, he also remarked on the challenges of selling live theater in a world dominated by online media. He said he is “looking to the next 10 years” to not only increase audiences and community participation, but to modernize the GAC facility. Britt sees the future in youth involvement in both shows and audiences, and GAC now offers lower ticket prices for kids and students. More community outreach and more sold-out shows, such as the current production, rank high on his list of goals.

All of the cast of The Phantom Tollbooth expressed pride and excitement about being part of the 40-year milestone. Director Jon Gardner was “happy to be part of it” and pleased by the abundance of energy this year, affording him the chance to



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Founding members Trix Whitehall and Konrad Herling reminisce about the early years of the Greenbelt Arts Center at the 40th Anniversary celebration on December 8.

work with many of the performers from his last three shows, as well as welcoming some new faces. Actor Dave Buckingham viewed GAC as offering “great community theater,” especially the children’s shows. He was heartened to see young people excelling and being part of something beyond “sitting at home,” absorbed in video games. Actor Aref Dajani was moved by being

part of a history of theatrical productions and “something bigger than myself.” He said that it was proximity to GAC that led him to become a resident of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Britt said this anniversary is a chance for celebrating longevity and is focused on keeping continuity through the many options GAC is capable of providing to Greenbelt.



### PRELIMINARY AGENDA GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, December 19, 2019 GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- A. Agenda item for a GHI Special Open Session Meeting on December 16, 2019 - starts at 7:00 p.m.
- Approve a Motion to hold a Formal Complaint Hearing in an Executive Session Meeting on December 16, 2019
- B. Agenda items for the December 19, 2019 Board meeting GHI Executive Session -starts at 7.00 p.m.
- Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting Held on November 21, 2019
  - Approve Minutes of an Informal Complaint Hearing Held on December 3, 2019
  - Member Financial Matters
  - Complaint Matters
- C. GHI Open Session – starts at 7.45 p.m.
- Announcement of a Formal Complaint Hearing held in an Executive Session Meeting on December 16, 2019
  - Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting Held on November 21, 2019
  - Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on November 21, 2019
  - Staff Comments re: Administration Building Safety Task Force Recommendations
  - Finance Committee Recommendation re: Installing Doors on Open Garages
  - Finance Committee Recommendation re: Increased Electric Sub-Meter Credits to Members
  - Proposed Purchase of New Computers and Software for Staff
  - Companion Animal Committee’s Revised Guide for Members with Companion Animals
  - Architectural Review Committee Report re: Gardening Sub-committee
  - Architectural Review Committee Recommendation re: Administration Building Front Entrance Make-over.
  - Buildings Committee Recommendation re: Revisions to Section X of the GHI Member Handbook



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

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## CRIME continued from page 1

the maintenance staff to untoward activity.

### Solution Rates

In response to a question, police representatives stated that, on average, crime solution rates are about 24 to 26 percent, which is about 5 percent better than the county overall. Crimes against persons, such as murder, rape

and robbery, though, have a 70 percent solution rate. He noted that such crimes have an inherent victim involved from whom information is often available, but vehicle crimes, which are more numerous, are more difficult and time-consuming to solve because they are generally committed when nobody is around to see.

It was noted that, unfortunately, vehicle crimes are a serious concern in the city and are running much the same as in previous years and that the resources that must be used to solve them are significant.

It was also noted that there has been a significant increase in calls for service related to mental health and suicide crises. To respond to this, the department is upgrading the training its officers receive on how to respond most effectively to these situations; the first such training takes place this month.

### No Gang Activity

When questions came up about possible gang activity, Franklin Park's Denise Knight responded that there has been no evidence of gang activity in the complex, but there had been some concern that some gang members might live there. She described how Franklin Park had engaged in a collaborative activity with city police and the Prince George's County gang unit earlier this year, which was successful in identifying and removing individuals of concern who were not on the lease of the apartment in which they resided. Knight noted that the MS-13 tip line information has been shared by the Greenbelt police online and is available to management.

### Community Policing

Officer Carlos Torres has been the Franklin Park community police officer for seven years. He said that he finds the management helpful and noted that they are very concerned about safety in the complex. Torres responded to questions from bike-oriented Councilmember Emmett Jordan on bike patrols. He said that Franklin Park is patrolled on bikes when the weather is good enough and that the younger children, in particular, were impressed by their bike gear. In fact, on the first day of school, bike officers in full bike regalia were at the elementary school to greet the students as they returned from summer vacation. He

also noted that walking patrols and a golf cart are used to bring police officers into closer contact with residents and enable them to reach into the inner courtyard areas away from automotive access.

A number of questions from residents centered on safety in the complex, with some specific requests to attend to dark patches, trees blocking lights and other concerns relating to overall security; these were duly noted by management for action. Head of Maintenance Mark Pauley confirmed that the number of security cameras has been increased, but noted that they are mostly focused on high traffic areas such as laundry buildings. He confirmed that they are not as prevalent in the areas close to residential buildings.

Torres now has direct access on his computer to the camera feeds, which he noted was very helpful. He can be out on patrol and immediately view each camera in real time. Maintenance staff on duty in the evenings and mornings now check on a regular basis that security lights are on at night.

## Pearl Harbor Day



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Veterans are honored with flags and flowers at the Greenbelt Veterans Memorial for Pearl Harbor Day on December 7.



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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Robbery**  
December 1, 3:10 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A man was grabbed from behind as he was walking to his vehicle. Two other teens then punched him, took his wallet and broke the keys to his vehicle. They then ran to a black 4-door vehicle and fled. The injured man was transported to Doctors Community Hospital for treatment.  
December 2, 4 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A man approached a woman from behind as she was walking to her vehicle and pushed what she believed to be a gun against her. He demanded her purse and then fled on foot. The woman was not injured.

**Reckless Endangerment**  
December 4, 4 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A man fired several rounds from a handgun in front of building number 7804. He then fled on foot along with three others. No injuries were reported but several vehicles were damaged. The investigation is ongoing.

**Fraud**  
November 27, 10 a.m., 2 Court Southway. A man who claimed to be a police officer called a woman and told her he had an open arrest warrant for her and that she would have to open up a Bitcoin bank account to avoid having her bank accounts frozen. She opened the account and deposited money into it. When she heard nothing further from the man she realized it was a scam. It is unknown at this time if the woman was able to recover the money.

**Theft**  
December 3, 3:30 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An unattached laptop computer was taken from a counter at FedEx on November 25.  
December 3, 8 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive. A package containing a television was taken from the front door area of an apartment residence.

**Burglary**  
November 28, 11:02 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. Surveillance video showed that a man entered the outer doors to the vestibule area of Safeway and then attempted to break the inner doors with a handgun. He fled on foot after he was unable to gain entry.  
November 29, 11 p.m., 6500 block Lake Park Drive. Three laptop computers and an e-cigarette were taken after a residence was entered by tampering with a bedroom window.  
December 1, 5:03 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. Money and an engagement ring were taken after an apartment was entered. There was no sign of forced entry.  
December 4, 5:39 a.m., 7200 block Hanover Parkway. Officers responded to a report of a burglar alarm sounding and found a broken window and an open door at the Hanover Park Pharmacy.  
**Vehicle Crime**  
A 2008 Chevrolet Impala stolen November 27 from 33 Court Ridge Road was recovered December 2 in the 100 block Centerway.  
An attempt was made to steal a vehicle in the 9100 block Edmonston Road on December 3 after the locked vehicle was entered and the ignition was tampered with.  
Two tags, Virginia USG4200, were taken on December 3 in the 6100 block Breezewood Court, rear Maryland tag 113693T was taken on December 4 from the 6900 block Hanover Parkway, rear Maryland tag 9DE1210 was taken from the 7700 block Mandan Road and rear Maryland tag 6EB3152 was taken November 29 from the 9100 block Edmonston Road. The left rear tire was also flattened on the latter.  
A tire and rim were removed in the 9200 block Springhill Lane on December 2 and a catalytic converter was removed in the 100 block Westway on November 27.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.  
Call 1-866-411-TIPS.  
People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

# An Encouraging Franklin Park Worksession with the Council

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council met to hear almost all good news at its December 4 worksession with Franklin Park. Held in the festively decorated leasing center, an informal conversation provided some encouraging statistics on the Franklin Park community.  
Franklin Park Manager Denise Knight led the team from Franklin Park, there in force to answer questions and describe their activities. She noted that this year has been the management company's most successful yet at this site, with Franklin Park boasting 94 percent occupancy on average. Retention, which refers to tenants who stay after their initial year's tenancy, is at 70 percent. This is high for a rental community. This is good news for the city as a whole because the more stable a population, the less problem there is with crime. (See separate story on security and safety topics.)  
Knight, in response to questions, stated that there was no increase in rental rates from the year before. It is not an industry practice to incentivize people to stay; that is, there's no lowering of rent after the first year to encourage retention. Instead, people stay for a variety of reasons but good quality of life is a significant factor. Ultimately, a higher retention rate implies that residents are happier with their residency, which may mean different things to different people.  
Councilmember Silke Pope said that she, as a teacher in Springhill Lake Elementary School, has seen the effect of this increasing stability with more children staying at the school throughout their elementary education.  
Councilmember Judith Davis asked whether Franklin Park offered shared housing, meaning that an apartment was rented to more than one lessee. Knight responded that they did not and also stated that they required all people in the unit to be named on the lease, including when families were sharing the apartment. Furthermore, 10 percent of the units were rented by individuals or families with housing vouchers. Franklin Park did not use a quota system for vouchered residents.  
Several questions centered around the ongoing upgrade of apartments. Knight commented that they were happy to see a good many individuals who had been there for 5, 10 or even 20 years. She said that upgrades to these classic apartments (of which there are about 500) were

offered to residents. However, the upgrades (for example, new kitchens or bathrooms) are accompanied by a rent increase. Very few of the townhouses are still categorized as classic.  
**Recreation Facilities**  
Council presented a set of photographs of rundown playground equipment and recreational facilities. The photographs included a tennis court without a net, basketball courts with no basket, fractured asphalt and play equipment with peeling paint and poor surfacing. They also observed that the map provided by Franklin Park showed more playgrounds than actually exist.  
Knight responded that the management team was working on revamping some areas in 2020 based on a survey of residents' desires, including conversion of the tennis court to other uses and additional basketball and soccer facilities.  
In response to questions about swimming pools, Knight said that although they have two swimming pools, one has significant maintenance issues and has not been open for the last two years. No final decision on it has been made. She also pointed out that the map shown was part of the original plans for the community and not all the playgrounds on it were built. This map is no longer on the Franklin Park website.  
The Recreation Department is preparing feedback on suggested plans for Franklin Park to rectify some of these concerns and council encouraged Franklin Park to work closely with the department to coordinate.  
**Maintenance**  
Franklin Park is fully licensed after passing inspections and complying with code enforcement requirements. It was a four-month process that required the city's two inspectors to inspect and reinspect. Councilmember Edward Putens remarked that everybody did a great job and that it was the first time Franklin Park has had a license for two years in a row.  
Davis remarked that in the

past maintenance requests took a long time. Franklin Park Head of Maintenance Mark Pauley said they attempt to respond to calls within 24 to 48 hours and have upgraded their maintenance staff. He feels his current crew is the best yet.  
Both Davis and Pope asked about windows and particularly about window guards to prevent children from falling out. Knight responded that they have been steadily increasing the numbers of window guards and childproof window locks, having gone from 1,000 to 2,000 windows protected in the last year. They prioritized apartments where children reside.  
Franklin Park now has a dedicated onsite pest control company and the situation regarding infestation has improved over the last two years. They have an escalation approach that can go all the way from an initial spraying to pulling out cabinets and appliances if less stringent measures are ineffective.  
**Animal Control**  
There was much discussion on dog facilities, with Pope supporting inclusion of a possible dog park and the provision of poop stations. Knight said that they recently raised their rent surcharge to have a dog from \$30 to \$45 per month, which is still less than average, plus an upfront \$300 nonrefundable fee to cover potential damage. There is no weight restriction on dogs, but there is a breed restriction.  
She remarked that previous experiments with dog poop stations were not successful because they were misused and the plastic bags taken but said a new initiative combined with community education might be a possibility in the future. Residents concerned about feral cats were referred to the city's animal control department for assistance with capture, spay and neuter services.  
**Recycling**  
Concerns on recycling facilities included a statement by residents that Franklin Park needs to be more recycling-friendly with  
See COUNCIL, page 11

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 8 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$9.80 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$14.70). Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

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Valerie Pierce: 301-802-4336  
Michael McAndrew: 240-432-8233  
Christina Doss: 410-365-6769  
Sean Rooney: 410-507-3337









# Greenbelt Festival of Lights 2019



Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down Roosevelt Center Lane!



The shopping picks up at the Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, December 7.

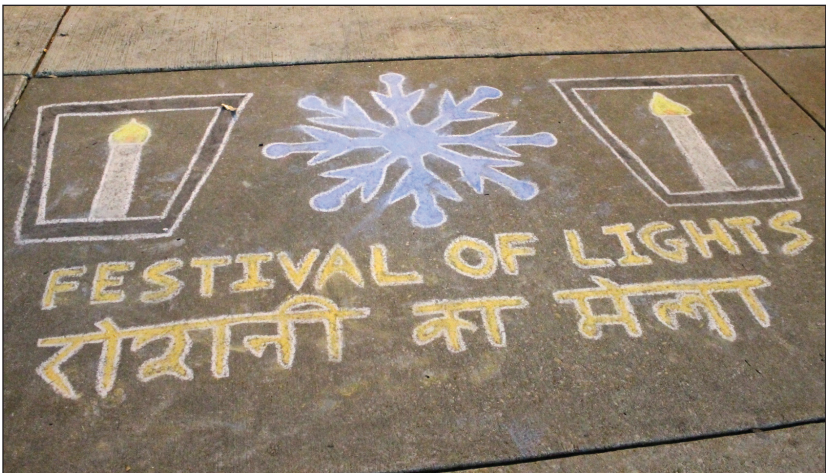


The Greenbelt Community band regales the crowd with festive holiday favorites at the Festival of Lights tree lighting ceremony.

- Photos on left by Gary Childs  
- Photos on right by Amanda Larsen



Zuri Kenyatte sells packaged popcorn and lemonade at her booth. The Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair supports young entrepreneurs by accepting youth applicants each year.



Greenbelt's resident sidewalk chalk artist, Vijay Parameshwaran, celebrated the Festival of Lights with a happy holiday drawing.

## TREE continued from page 1

Greenbelt resident. “The families are here, the elders are here, the kids are running around, having a good time.”

Another Greenbelt resident, Brooke Kenny, came to the event with her husband and two kids. She says that she’s gone to the event about three to five times in the past.

“I love that a lot of neighbors are here and that it’s a local

event. There’s not too many local events left these days,” Kenny said.

With Christmas carols performed by the Brass Choir, Santa’s arrival and hot chocolate, there was a little something for everyone.

“Every time you’ve got great music, you’ve got the kids, you’ve got a great atmosphere and environment,” Byrd said.

“And that’s aided in part by the fact that it’s a great community.”

The night came to an end with a showing of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966) inside Old Greenbelt Theatre.

*Kaitlyn Cupelli is a University of Maryland journalism student reporting for the News Review.*



Lucie and Tom Pentz brought their sock monkey family all the way from Pennsylvania.

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